



Creating Policy, Systems, Environmental Change: Adelanto Success Story and Lessons Learned

Adelanto City Leaders and Citizens Work Together for a Safer and More Walkable Community

Intervention Summary

The open desert areas in the City of Adelanto were frequently used as dumping sites for trash, old furniture and tires making it unsightly and unsafe. CX³ resident leader, Laura Villa, used her advocacy and community leadership skills to mobilize residents and city leaders to conduct comprehensive cleanups in neighborhoods with unsafe streets. Laura says simply, “I’m tired of seeing trash when taking my children out for walks in our neighborhoods. I also want my children to feel empowered and know that they can make a difference and that we have a cleaner and safer neighborhood to live in”. Laura and a team of CX³ residents organized themselves into a cleaning crew and led the charge for safer and cleaner streets. They went into the community and recruited additional residents and city leaders to begin conducting regularly scheduled community cleanups in north and south Adelanto. ***In just one cleanup 41 tons of waste was removed*** and a cooperative partnership has formed between residents and the city in cleaning and caring for the community.

Description of Barriers Encountered and Identified or Proposed Solutions

At first, city leaders were not connected to the advocacy requests of the 30 CX³ residents who wanted to create safer streets in their neighborhoods. Specifically, residents needed supplies and trucks in order for waste to be safely removed and transported to the disposal site. To do so without proper supplies meant that cleanups were unsafe for those participating and that the amount of waste that could be collected

was small in quantity. CX³ residents arranged for multiple meetings with the mayor and code enforcement in order to explain why city assistance was needed. A bond of trust grew between residents and city leaders as the leadership witnessed increasing numbers of residents consistently volunteering at each clean up. Soon thereafter, additional supplies were provided by the city and city leaders joined residents in cleaning waste and improving street safety, working side by side. This relationship between residents and city leaders has included suggestions on ways the city can identify and prosecute illegal dumping.

Future Directions/Sustainable Success

Residents and city leaders have developed a quarterly clean-up schedule. Additionally, the city has agreed to provide large trash bins and trucks to allow for large waste cleanups. As a result of cleanups, more residents are walking in parks and on streets and taking pride in the neighborhood where they live, learn, work and play.

One possible long-term measure under consideration is the placement of security cameras so that illegal dumping is recorded. This idea has been mentioned by the mayor in meetings with residents. Language interpreters are also now provided so that all residents can participate in making decisions on how their community can be a cleaner and safer place.

Contact information about this Narrative

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